

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

DRC-01 /151 W

----- 073042

R 071810Z JUN 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0078

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0046

FROM US MBFR REP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT FOR THE
PERIOD 27 MAY - 2 JUNE 1974

1. BEGIN TEXT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 67 OF
C-M(73)83 (FINAL), THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED,
FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
AD HOC GROUP, AS THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN (ITALY)
ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AD HOC GROUP FOR THE WEEK
ENDING 2 JUNE, 1974.

2. THE GROUP REVIEWED THE INFORMAL MEETING OF 28 MAY,
1974. EXPLAINING THEIR VIEWS ON THE BASIS OF THESE
INFORMAL MEETINGS, THE ALLIES TOOK THE POSITION
THAT THE FOCUS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED ON THE AGREED
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TOPIC OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE

OUTSET WITH A VIEW OF REACHING A CONCLUSION BEFORE MOVING TO OTHER ISSUES. THIS CONCLUSION WOULD ONLY BE A TENTATIVE ONE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTION OF OTHER ISSUES OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE ALLIED STATEMENT THEN RETURNED TO THE STATEMENT MADE ON 22 MAY, TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A NON-INCREASE FORMULA AS PART OF THE PHASE I AGREEMENT, AND EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT AND A SYMBOLIC REDUCTION WHICH WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

3. THE GROUP NOTED THAT AT THIS INFORMAL MEETING, THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AGREED THAT THE ALLIED NON-INCREASE PROPOSAL DID MEET A CRITICISM OFTEN RAISED BY THE EAST. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES ASKED WHY IT DID NOT ALSO COVER ARMAMENTS AND CLAIMED THAT THE IDEA OF LIMITED DURATION CREATED INEQUITY FOR THE EAST, SINCE SOVIET AND US OBLIGATIONS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES WOULD BE OF INDEFINITE DURATION.

4. THE GROUP PREPARED THE REPORT FOR MINISTERS ON STATUS OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WAS SENT BY SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND CAPITALS ON 29 MAY.

5. THE GROUP NOTED THAT AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF 30 MAY, THE EASTERN PRESENTATION GIVEN BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE, DESCRIBED THE ALLIED PROPOSAL OF UNEQUAL REDUCTIONS LEADING TO A COMMON CEILING OF GROUND FORCES AS UNACCEPTABLE. THERE MAY BE DISPARITIES IN CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF FORCES, BUT THE RELATIONSHIP ON BOTH SIDES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, TAKEN AS A WHOLE, IS IN HIS VIEW CHARACTERIZED BY APPROXIMATE PARITY.

6. FOR THE PLENARY SESSION ON 6 JUNE, 1974, THE GROUP AGREED THE OUTLINE OF A STATEMENT ON PHASING TO BE DELIVERED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. AT THE SAME OCCASION, THE US REPRESENTATIVE WILL REPLY TO CERTAIN POINTS OF CRITICISM RAISED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE CONCERNING DATA.

7. FINALLY, THE GROUP PREPARED THE TALKING POINTS FOR THE INFORMAL MEETING ON 4 JUNE, WHICH WILL MENTION THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE "FIXED PERIOD OF TIME" AND THE "REVIEW PROCEDURE" (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL GUIDANCE OF 17 MAY, 1974, C-M(74)30(REVISED)). END TEXT.
RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740146-0979
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740665/aaaaceaz.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 27 MAY - 2 JUNE 1974
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005